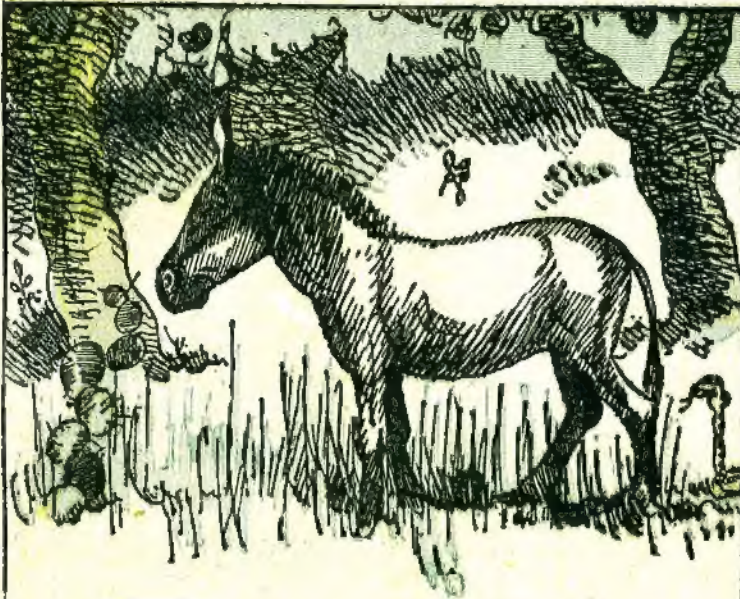


ZOO GOSSIP - HOW THE ZEBRA GOT HIS STRIPES



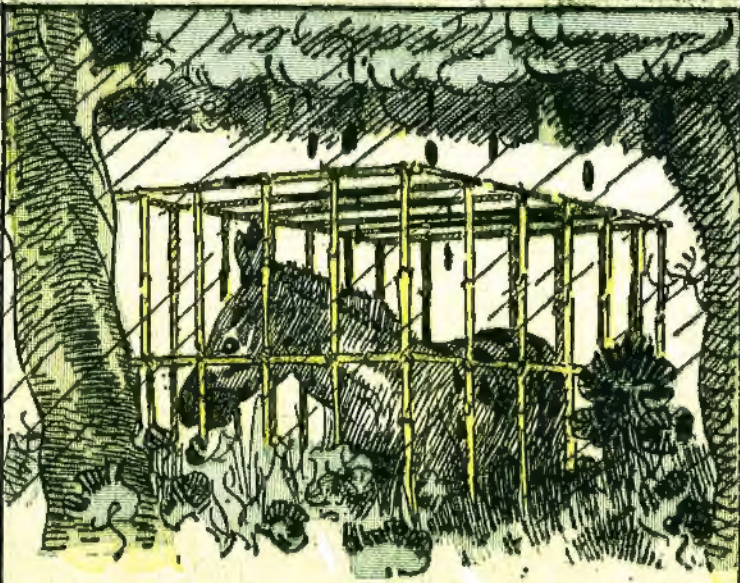
LONG BEFORE THE WHITE MAN EXPLORED AFRICA, THE ZEBRA ROAMED THE PLAINS AND JUNGLES, BUT WORE NO PRETTY STRIPES AS HE DOES AT THE PRESENT TIME. HE WAS JUST AS PLAIN AS ANY OTHER HORSE.



BUT ONE MORNING WHILE WANDERING THROUGH THE FOREST HE RAN INTO A LARGE ROUGHLY BUILT CAGE WHICH HE THOUGHT MERELY AN OPENING THROUGH THE DENSE VEGETATION.



THIS WOODEN CAGE WAS A TRAP SET BY THE WILD MEN TO CATCH LIONS. ONCE INSIDE, THE DOOR HAD CLOSED AND THOUGH THE POOR ZEBRA KICKED WITH ALL HIS MIGHT, THE CAGE BARS HELD FAST.



THE TRAP STOOD BENEATH AN INDIGO TREE AND THE ZEBRA HAD NOT BEEN THERE LONG WHEN A SHOWER CAME UP. GREAT, PURPLE RAIN-DROPS FELL FROM THE TREE ONTO THE BARS OF THE CAGE.



THE CROSS-BARS ON TOP OF THE CAGE PREVENTED SOME OF THE INDIGO WATER FROM FALLING ON THE ZEBRA. BUT THAT DROPPING BETWEEN THE BARS FORMED BEAUTIFUL STRIPES ON HIS BACK AND SIDES.



WHEN THE NATIVES ARRIVED THEY DANCED ABOUT WITH GLEE. FOR THEY HAD TRAPPED THAT RARITY—A STRIPED HORSE. SO FROM THAT TIME TO THE PRESENT DAY THE ZEBRA HAS ALWAYS WORN STRIPES.

ZOO GOSSIP - THE ORIGIN OF THE HIPPO'S LARGE MOUTH

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THE HIPPOPOTAMUS, OR "RIVER HORSE" WAS ALWAYS LARGE AND BULKY. BUT THERE WAS A TIME WHEN HIS MOUTH WAS QUITE SMALL COMPARED TO HIS GREAT SIZE, SO MUCH SO THAT THE OTHER ANIMALS GAVE HIM THE LAUGH.



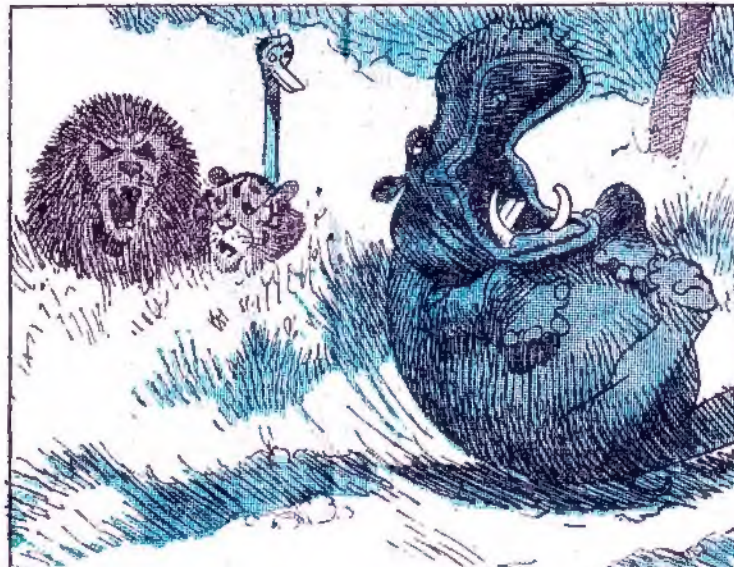
ONE DAY THESE OTHER ANIMALS INVITED THE "HIPPO" TO GO TO THE DEN OF THE "RED FOX" TO HEAR HIM TELL FUNNY STORIES. THE "HIPPO" BEING OF A SERIOUS TURN OF MIND DECLINED AT FIRST, BUT WAS FINALLY PERSUADED TO GO



WHEN THEY HAD REACHED THE ABODE OF THE "RED FOX" AND WERE COMFORTABLY SEATED THE SLY ANIMAL BEGAN TO RELATE A VERY FUNNY STORY AND ALL LAUGHED HEARTILY AT ITS CONCLUSION—ALL BUT THE "HIPPO."



THIS LACK OF HILARITY ON THE PART OF THE "HIPPO" PEEVED THE ENTERTAINER AND HE WAS ABOUT TO REFUSE FURTHER JOKES WHEN THE "HIPPO" SUDDENLY OPENED HIS MOUTH VERY WIDE AND BROKE OUT INTO A HEARTY ROAR



HE TUMBLED AND ROLLED AWAY FROM THE CROWD, STILL ROARING WITH LAUGHTER. HIS ONCE SMALL MOUTH NOW STRETCHED FROM "EAR TO EAR," DISCLOSING A CAVITY THAT WAS APPALLING INDEED TO THE OTHER ANIMALS.



STRANGE TO RELATE THE GREAT BEAST HASN'T LAUGHED SINCE THAT DAY, BUT THAT ONE ATTACK OF MIRTH SO STRETCHED HIS MOUTH THAT IT IS SAID HE CAN NOW DRINK A RIVER DRY AND EAT A BALE OF HAY AT EACH MOUTHFUL

ZOO GOSSIP - WHY IS THE CROW BLACK?



THE CROW HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN AS A THIEF AMONG THE "FEATHERED TRIBE." HE IS VERY DARK IN COLOR, TYPICAL OF HIS MUCH BLACKENED CHARACTER, IT SEEMS.



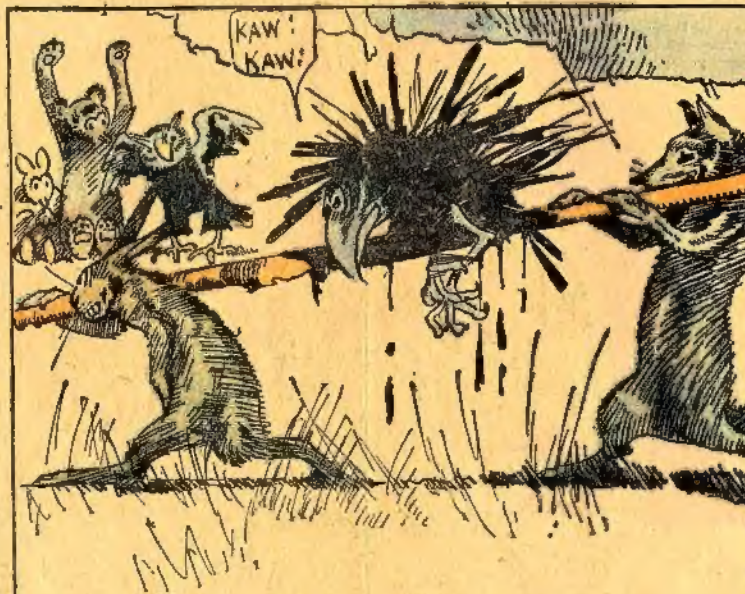
ODD AS IT MAY APPEAR, THE CROW AT ONE TIME WAS DESTITUTE OF FEATHERS, WHICH MADE HIM LOOK VERY GROTESQUE, BUT EVEN IN THOSE DAYS HIS HABIT OF PILFERING KNEW NO LIMITS.



HIS WHOLESALE ROBBERIES SO EXASPERATED THE OTHER ANIMALS, THAT THEY RESOLVED TO CAPTURE AND PUNISH HIM, WHICH THEY SUCCEEDED IN DOING ONE DARK NIGHT.



THE PUNISHMENT WHICH THEY ACCORDED THE BAD BIRD WAS SOMEWHAT SEVERE. HE WAS FIRST SMEARED WITH PITCH, OBTAINED FROM A NEARBY ASPHALT LAKE, AND THEN HIS BODY WAS COVERED WITH HORNBILL FEATHERS.



AFTER THIS, THEY RODE HIM ON A SHARP FENCE-RAIL, WHICH HURT THE CROW VERY MUCH; BUT FURNISHED GREAT AMUSEMENT FOR HIS TORMENTORS.



FOLLOWING THIS COAT OF TAR AND FEATHERS, HIS BODY HAS BECOME VERY BLACK AND GLOSSY, BUT HIS THIEVING HABITS HAVE CONTINUED UNRESTRAINED—MAN HIMSELF HAS BECOME HIS ENEMY AND HAS INVENTED SCARE-CROWS TO FRIGHTEN HIM, BUT WITH LITTLE SUCCESS.